



# ***Competitive Grant Announcement***

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## **Awards for Developing and Enhancing Tribal Courts**

**Application Deadline: August 20, 1999**

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## About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports innovative programs that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. Its primary mission is to provide leadership and a wide range of assistance to local criminal justice strategies to make America's communities safer. BJA accomplishes this mission by providing funding, training, technical assistance, and information to state and community criminal justice programs and by emphasizing the coordination of federal, state, local, and tribal efforts. BJA's specific goals are to help communities reduce and prevent crime, violence, and drug abuse and to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system.

## Background

The Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, announces, as part of the Department of Justice's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative, the availability of grants to support the development, enhancement, and continuing operation of tribal judicial systems. All grants will be awarded competitively.

Concept papers are solicited in the following two areas: (1) development of tribal courts and (2) enhancement and continuing operation of tribal courts. BJA encourages the development and enhancement of intertribal court systems. However, BJA will accept concept papers for single-tribe courts.

This program will emphasize technical assistance and training for tribal judicial systems. An extensive training and technical assistance program will be developed to serve tribal court grantees as well as all tribal judicial systems.

## What This Solicitation Seeks

Concept papers are solicited in the following two categories. A tribal government may submit a concept paper in only *one* category. If more than one concept paper is submitted by a tribal government, all concept papers from that tribe will be removed from the review process.

### I. Development of Tribal Court Planning Grants

Tribes without tribal judicial systems **MUST** submit a concept paper for a Development of Tribal Court Planning Grant. Grants in this category will be used to help tribal governments without tribal judicial systems develop a tribal court. Planning grants are limited in scope and will not necessarily lead to federal funding to implement the courts.

All recipients must participate in tribal court planning seminars facilitated by BJA and a technical assistance provider. Tribes must establish a development team, which will attend all tribal court planning sessions. Training sessions will be held at locations determined by BJA. Upon successful completion of the planning seminars, grantees may purchase hardware to operate the tribal courts. Ultimately, this technology will link these sites electronically.

Tribal governments applying for planning grants are invited to apply under *one* of the following two categories:

1. *Development of Single-Tribe Court Systems.*  
Planning grants will facilitate the development of a tribal court system designed to meet the needs of one tribe.
2. *Development of Intertribal Court Systems.*  
Planning grants will facilitate the development of intertribal court systems designed to meet the needs of more than one tribe in the same geographic region. *Only one tribal government may serve as the applicant for an intertribal court system.* The remaining tribal governments are required to submit letters of intent to confirm their participation in the program.

### II. Enhancement and Continuing Operation of Tribal Courts Grants

Grants in this category will be made for the enhancement and continuing operation of established tribal courts. Projects may include, but are not limited to, improving case management, training court personnel, acquiring equipment, enhancing prosecution, improving indigent defense services, establishing diversion programs, and accessing services.

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To provide the most equitable competition among tribal governments that have similar proposals, two categories of enhancement grants are offered. Tribal governments are invited to apply under *one* of the following categories:

1. *Enhancement and Continuing Operation Projects up to \$50,000.* Proposals submitted for enhancement and continuing operation of small projects (up to \$50,000) will only compete with those proposals submitted under the same category.
2. *Enhancement and Continuing Operation Projects up to \$100,000.* Proposals submitted for enhancement and continuing operation of large projects (up to \$100,000) will only compete with those proposals submitted under the same category.

## ***Who Is Eligible***

Applicants are limited to federally recognized tribal governments, including Alaska Native villages. (Agents or organizations working on behalf of tribal governments may *not* serve as the formal applicant.)

## ***Amount and Length of Awards***

The proposal should include a request for funding within the following guidelines:

- ◆ **Development of Tribal Court Planning Grants.** Awards will be up to \$30,000 each. The grant period will be up to 18 months. BJA will determine the number of awards based upon the number of submissions received.

Tribes without tribal judicial systems **MUST** submit a concept paper for a Development of Tribal Court Planning Grant.

### **◆ Enhancement and Continuing Operation of Tribal Courts Grants.**

*Enhancement and Continuing Operation Projects up to \$50,000.* Awards will not exceed \$50,000 per award. The grant period will be up to 18 months. BJA will determine the number of awards based upon the number of submissions received.

*Enhancement and Continuing Operation Projects up to \$100,000.* Awards will not exceed \$100,000 per award. The grant period will be up to 18 months. BJA will determine the number of awards based upon the number of submissions received.

For *all* enhancement projects, no more than 40 percent of the award may be used for personnel costs.

## ***Administrative Requirements***

To be considered for funding, applicants must:

- ◆ Follow the format described below under Selection Criteria in the sequence shown.
  - ◆ Not exceed six pages (not including cover page).
  - ◆ Submit their concept paper on 8½- by 11-inch paper, double spaced on one side, in standard 10- or 12-point font.
  - ◆ Submit **six** copies of their concept paper.
  - ◆ For intertribal court systems applicants, identify one tribe as the applicant and include letters of support from all participating tribes.
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## **Selection Criteria for Development of Tribal Court Planning Grants**

### **STOP**

*Tribal governments without functioning tribal courts may submit concept papers only for **Development of Tribal Court Planning Grants** and must answer the following questions in the order given below. Papers not following this format will be removed from the review process. If selected, applicants will be required to complete an Application for Federal Assistance.*

1. On your submission cover page (see attached), indicate whether you are applying for a single-tribe or intertribal grant. If you are applying for an intertribal grant, list all tribes that will participate and include letters of intent from each tribe.
2. Identify the caseloads/offenses the tribal court will address. (20 points)
3. Describe how caseloads/offenses are currently handled. (20 points)
4. Describe who will make up your development team. If you are applying for an intertribal court planning grant, a minimum of one and maximum of three persons from each tribe involved in the intertribal court system **must** be members of the development team. Development team members must attend all training seminars. (20 points)
5. Describe how the court will improve the quality of justice and outcomes of these cases. (10 points)
6. Identify all existing resources the court will access to adjudicate cases. Examples are prosecution, defense, record keeping, detention space, probation services, restitution programs, fine collection, and drug/alcohol treatment. (10 points)
7. Describe how you will sustain your tribal judicial system after the award period ends. (10 points)
8. Identify the tribal members the court will serve and the geographic area it will cover. (10 points)

## **Selection Criteria for Enhancement and Continuing Operation of Tribal Courts Grants**

### **STOP**

*Tribal governments with functioning tribal courts may submit a concept paper for either a \$50,000 or \$100,000 **Enhancement and Continuing Operation of Tribal Courts Grant** and must answer the following questions in the order given below. Papers not following this format will be removed from the review process. If selected, applicants will be required to complete an Application for Federal Assistance.*

1. Identify the problem(s) your proposal addresses. Indicate in your proposal and on your submission cover page if you are applying for a \$50,000 or \$100,000 enhancement and continuing operation grant. (20 points)
  2. Describe what you are proposing to do and your plans to accomplish it. (20 points)
  3. Describe your strategy to collaborate with other tribal and/or nontribal agencies. Discuss who your partners will be, what role they will play, and whether these partnerships will be new. Partnerships or consortia with other tribal, nontribal, and community-based groups are strongly encouraged. (20 points)
  4. Describe the current operation of your tribal court. Include current funding, caseload, staffing, and services. (10 points)
  5. Identify the number of tribal members your enhancement project will serve and the geographic area it will cover. (10 points)
  6. Briefly describe the costs associated with the project's activities as well as the project's cost benefits. (10 points)
  7. Describe how you will sustain the tribal court enhancement(s) after the award period ends. (10 points)
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## ***Technical Assistance***

Through this program, a variety of training and technical assistance will be available to all tribal court grantees. Onsite and offsite training and technical assistance will be available for grantees to provide assistance in the development and enhancement of single-tribe and intertribal court systems. Technical assistance will also be available to help grantees develop program goals and determine if these goals are being met.

## ***Deadline and Submission***

Six copies of your concept paper must be RECEIVED at the address below no later than 5:30 p.m. eastern time, **August 20, 1999**. Concept papers received after the deadline will not be considered. BJA will not grant extensions of the deadline or accept faxed submissions. Concept papers should be mailed or delivered to:

Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Attention: BJA Control Desk  
5640 Nicholson Lane, Suite 300  
Rockville, MD 20852

## ***For More Information***

The staff of the Department of Justice Response Center are available at 1-800-421-6770 to answer questions about this solicitation. Applicants will receive a postcard acknowledging BJA's receipt of their concept paper 4 to 6 weeks after the submission deadline. For general information about BJA programs and training and technical assistance, contact the BJA Clearinghouse at 1-800-688-4252 or access the BJA World Wide Web home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>.

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# ***Tribal Court Submission Cover Page***

***All applicants must use this page as the cover for their submission.***

**Type of Grant**

**I. Development of Tribal Court Planning Grants**

**Single-Tribe Court System**

**Intertribal Court System**

**II. Enhancement and Continuing Operation of Tribal Courts Grants**

**Project up to \$50,000**

**Project up to \$100,000**

**Name of Applying Agency**

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**Address of Applying Agency**

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**Applicant's Unit of Government  
(e.g., city, county, state, tribal)**

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**Point of Contact  
(Name and Title)**

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**Contact Telephone Number**

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**Contact Fax Number**

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**Contact E-mail Address**

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